

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING

October 3, 2002

(Approved November 7, 2002)

Members Present: Ed Murdough, Stephen Judge, Robert Nelson, Ronald O'Keefe, David Duquette, Stephen Carrier, Roger Hatfield, Paul Fortier, John Hogle, Joseph Butts, Corey Landry, Richard Mason.

Members Absent: John Stephen, Les Cartier, Peter Russell, Donald Bliss.

Others Present: Division of Fire Standards & Training Staff--Bruce McPherson, Bureau Chief; Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Sue Prentiss, Bureau Chief; Susan Beaudoin and Heather Newland, Recording Secretaries.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. Pledge of Allegiance to Flag. The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair Paul Fortier at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 3, 2002 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Item 2. Moment of Silence. Chair Fortier requested a moment of silence for Al Britton, retired Deputy State Fire Marshal, who passed away this morning from cancer.

II. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Commissioner Judge, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to go into nonpublic session in order to discuss a matter which might adversely affect the reputation of a person who is not a member of this Commission. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion by Commissioner O'Keefe, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to keep the Minutes of this nonpublic session confidential and to go out of nonpublic session. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 1. September 5, 2002. A recommendation was made by Commissioner Judge to make the following changes to the Minutes of the September 5, 2002 Commission meeting:

- (a) Page 13, IX--Nonpublic Session, first paragraph, add the word "unanimously so that the motion reads: motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote.
- (b) Page 13, IX--Nonpublic Session, second paragraph, add the word "unanimously so that the motion reads: motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Chair Fortier noted that the vote on the approval of the September 5, 2002 Commission Minutes will be done at the November 7, 2002 Commission meeting.

IV. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Fortier welcomed everyone to the meeting.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Motion made by Commissioner Landry, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe to table the following committee reports until the November 7, 2002 Commission meeting: Emergency Medical Services Liaison, Curriculum Review, Rapid Intervention Teams, NFPA Standards 1031-1033-1035, and Academy Awards. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services Liaison. Report tabled until the November meeting.

Item 2. Curriculum Review. Report tabled until the November meeting.

Item 3. Fire Marshal's Office. Director Bliss was absent.

Item 4. Forest Protection Bureau. Commissioner Nelson stated that he found the copy of the letter that he spoke about at the September Commission meeting, looking at the restrictions on burning brush piles

and that type of thing. He is looking for some input as to whether there is an existing definition in the State of what fire protection is or to try to work on a definition of what fire protection would be when we are talking about burning at the town brush dumps. Commissioner Nelson asked that the Commission members share this with their organizations and bring suggestions back to him. He is trying to distribute this as far and wide in the fire service as he can.

Item 5. Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT). Report tabled until the November meeting.

Item 6. NFPA Standards 1031-1033-1035. Report tabled until the November meeting.

Item 7. Academy Awards. Report tabled until the November meeting.

VI. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Item 1. Director's Report #64 covered the following subjects: 1. State House Ceremony, 2. Safety & Health Council of NH, 3. Dormitory, 4. Strategic Planning, 5. Emergency Preparedness Expo, 6. Bow Men's Club, 7. Academy Awards, 8. Division Name Change, 9. EMS, and 10. CFOD.

Director Mason also noted that Captain Charlie Roffo announced last month that he was moving to the Laconia Fire Department. Andy Anderson, who was our Lieutenant--Equipment Supervisor, has been promoted to that Captain position. We have one in-house candidate who was certified by the Bureau of Personnel who will be interviewed for the Lieutenant position. We have also advertised the position on the outside.

Director Mason said that a week from today his son goes to Fort Knox for his basic training.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. C2F2. Chair Fortier stated that he is looking for a vote and a resolution at the next Commission meeting regarding C2F2, whether to change the curriculum and/or the residency requirement. He said everyone should be ready to vote the way their organization has requested them to.

Commissioner Duquette said he can only speak for the Professional Firefighters because that is who he represents. He stated that this has

gone back a long way. The goal of the Professional Firefighters is to reduce the requirement for the residency. Commissioner Duquette said after he talked with the firefighters on the floor and with Captain Eric Wilking who runs the programs here, he made a proposal that asked C2F2 Chief Fortier why residency is so important. Chief Fortier had answered that one of the issues is making sure the students are there on time for classes, that they all start together, and that they are working in groups. Commissioner Duquette's proposal to make both sides happy is to run the program the way we do now but without the residency requirement. However, the class times will stay identical to what they are. So when people come in for the Orientation, they are going to know they are going to be required to come one day at 2:00 a.m. and another day at 3:00 a.m. Residency will be recommended but not required. Students would sign a contract regarding this on Orientation day. If they don't appear at class on time, they will be out of the program. If they don't get C2F2, they are out of a job. Commissioner Duquette will bring this proposal to the next Commission meeting in a formal presentation.

Commissioner Duquette stated that some still feel that C2F2 should continue the way it is, while others feel that Firefighter II should be the mandate.

Chair Fortier said that the members of the Commission should be prepared that we could have an emergency meeting called. Commissioner Duquette reminded everyone that, if an emergency meeting is called, they can only discuss the item(s) that the emergency meeting was called for.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. Fire Officer Visiting Committee. Commissioner Carrier stated that one of the things that was discussed on the Strategic Planning Team for Curriculum is that the Fire Officer I and II program desperately needs review. He said he believes the process is to form a Visiting Committee. Director Mason reported that we have advertised for Fire Officer Visiting Committee members in our newsletter that is currently being printed. He noted that there are three standards that are up in 2002: Firefighter, Fire Officer, and Fire Service Instructor.

Item 2. Advisory Council on Preparedness and Security. Chair Fortier read a letter he received on September 20, 2002 from Commissioner Flynn stating that Chapter 257 of this past legislation session established an Advisory Council on Preparedness and Security. The law calls for one member to be a current member of the Fire Standards & Training Commission appointed by the Chairman. The

Advisory Council needs to begin to meet soon, so Commissioner Flynn needs to know who is appointed by Chair Fortier to serve.

Director Mason explained that this Council was established when the Office of Emergency Management came under the Department of Safety.

Chair Fortier asked that anyone interested in the position notify him before the November Commission meeting. He also asked Director Mason to check with Commissioner Flynn to see if that would be soon enough to make his selection.

Item 3. Hampton Fire Department Request. Chair Fortier read a letter from the Hampton Fire Department to Director Mason stating that they have three firefighters who need C2F2 by October 18 and 19, 2002, and four additional firefighters who need it by next July. They were requesting an extension for those firefighters as they had not been able to provide them with the course yet.

Commissioner Judge noted that, since their anniversary dates had not been reached yet and since Chief McPherson stated there were still openings in the October 14-25 C2F2 course at the Fire Academy that the three firefighters could attend, there was no need to request an extension. Director Mason said he will call the Department to advise them of that.

IX. RETREAT ITEM DISCUSSION

None.

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Item 1. November 7, 2002 Commission Meeting. Director Mason stated that typically the November Commission meeting starts at 3:00 p.m., followed by a dinner, and then the Academy Awards at 7:00 p.m. He recommended that the November 7, 2002 Commission Meeting be changed from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. to allow enough time for all the Committee reports and any discussions that may be needed. Chair Fortier agreed that the meeting will be at 10:00 a.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Landry, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to adjourn at 3:20 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director